GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4364
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002
BIO-TECHNOLOGY
RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether bio-technology in India is under the control of multi-national companies which is not in the interest of the farmers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) : No, Sir .

(b) & (c): A separate Department of Biotechnologywas established by Government of India in 1986 as a nodal agency with a mandate to promote and support research & development, manufacturing, human resource development, establishment of infrastructure and formulation of regulatory guidelines on Biotechnology. Biotechnology products and processes relevant to agriculture, healthcare and industry are developed by both public and private sector including some multi-nationals. These require statutory approvals in terms of food and environmental safety. The Government has already put in place appropriate mechanisms under various Acts to regulate biotech products involving inter-ministerial consultations to protect the farmers and national interest. Further, these regulations are reviewed and updated from time to time to meet the requirements of the current advances in technology.